



# Fast Facts

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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## EXPANDING EFFORTS AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

### The Problem

- Findings by the U.S. Surgeon General reveal that domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women between ages 15 to 44, more common than automobile accidents, muggings, and rapes combined.
- The American Medical Association estimates that more than one third of all women seeking emergency medical care are survivors of domestic violence.
- According to the March of Dimes, between 7 percent and 20 percent of women report experiencing physical or sexual violence during pregnancy.
- In 1998, California's local law enforcement agencies reported more than 197,000 calls related to domestic violence to the Department of Justice.
- Violent youth are four times more likely than nonviolent youth to come from homes where fathers beat mothers.

### Current Year Spending

As approved by the legislature and signed by the governor, the Fiscal Year 2000-01 budget provided a total of \$23.5 million in state resources for addressing domestic violence. The Battered Women Protection Act (BWPA) funds 91 agencies statewide to provide direct services to battered women and their children. Additionally, 32 agencies received grants to prevent domestic violence through the development of new intervention models, including those that focus on prevention strategies that emphasize learning skills, such as family conflict resolution and crisis management.

The Domestic Violence Advisory Council, appointed by the governor and the legislature, provides guidance and suggestions to the Department on ways to combat domestic violence.

Continuing to invest in shelter-based services programs will ensure the availability of emergency shelter, transitional housing, legal assistance, and other important support services needed to help battered women become self-sufficient and live free of violence, as well as assist communities with preventing domestic violence before it becomes a public health and criminal justice issue.

For more information, contact the Domestic Violence Section at (916) 657-4643.